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Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 /145 W
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R 191642Z APR 75
FM U S MISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2249

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2758

FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS STRAITS CONSULTATION WITH JORDAN

1. AMBASSADOR MOORE AND DEL REPS FRENCH AND MORRIS MET 14 APRIL WITH AMBASSADOR SAID OF JORDAN FOR EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF STRAITS ISSUE. MOORE PRESENTED U.S. STRAITS POSITION EMPHASIZING ATTAINMENT OF UNIMPEDED TRANSIT IN STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF U.S. POSITION. AMBASSADOR SADI STATED THAT ARAB GROUP CONTINUED DIVIDED ON ISSUE WITH MAJORITY LEANING TOWARD INNOCENT PASSAGE REGIME AT LEAST FOR ARAB REPEAT ARAB STRAITS. IRAQ AND SOME GULF STATES CONTINUED TO FAVOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT. IN AMBASSADOR SADI'S OPINION ISSUE WILL REQUIRE RESOLUTION AT HIGH MINISTERIAL LEVEL, EGYPT IS KEY TO INFLUENCING THAT DECISION, AND JORDAN WOULD ABIDE BY THE RESULT.

2. AMBASSADOR MOORE INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO
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DRAFT LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD APPLY AN UNIMPEDED TRANSIT REGIME

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TO STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS, WHILE AT
THE SAME TIME PRESERVING THE EXISTING INNOCENT PASSAGE REGIME
WHILE NOT PREJUDICING EXISTING INTERPRETATIONS CONCERNING
LEGAL REGIMES IN PARTICULAR STRAITS IN THIS CATEGORY IN
STRAITS CONNECTING HIGH SEAS.

3. AMBASSADOR SADI NOTED THAT THE EXCEPTION DESCRIBED
IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE WOULD APPLY TO TIRAN, HOWEVER, HE
FELT THAT UNLESS ALL ARAB STRAITS WERE EXCEPTED FROM AN
UNIMPEDED PASSAGE REGIME THE ULTIMATE ARAB GROUP DECISION
WOULD FAVOR INNOCENT PASSAGE. HE AGAIN RECOMMENDED
U.S. MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO INFLUENCE EGYPT WHICH HAS
STRONG VOICE IN ARAB GROUP AND MOST TECHNICALLY QUALI-
FIED DELEGATION. AMBASSADOR MOORE REITERATED
OUR INTEREST IN WORKING OUT STRAITS PROBLEM WITH ARAB
STATES BEFORE THEIR POSITION SOLIDIFIED, SINCE USG
COULD NOT ACCEPT A RESULT LESS FAVORABLE THAN THE
POSITION HE HAD OUTLINED.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM DELEGATION REP FRENCH,
SADI INDICATED THAT WHILE HE HAD NOT HEARD ARGUMENT AD-
VANCED IN GENEVA THAT SUBMERGED TRANSIT WOULD BECOME
UNNECESSARY ONCE TRIDENT BECAME OPERATIONAL, THIS
ARGUMENT HAD BEEN ADVANCED EFFECTIVELY IN ARAB LEAGUE
CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE. AMBASSADOR MOORE AND
DEL REP MORRIS RESPONDED, POINTING OUT THE FALLACIES
INHERENT IN THIS ARGUMENT INCLUDING USG REQUIREMENT
TO BALANCE SOVIET PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN. IN
RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR SADI'S INQUIRY REGARDING
POSSIBILITY OF ACCIDENTS RESULTING FROM SUBMERGED
TRANSIT IN NARROW STRAITS LIKE BAB EL MANDEB, DEL
REP MORRIS POINTED TO SAFETY RECORD UNDER EXISTING
PRACTICES AND NOTED SONAR AND OTHER NAVIGATION
CAPABILITIES OF SUBMARINES.

5. AS MEETING CLOSED AMBASSADOR SADI REPEATED DE-
SIRABILITY OF APPROACH TO EGYPTIANS, SUGGESTED AN
APPROACH TO ALL ARAB CAPITALS, AND NOTED THAT AN
ARAB STATES' MEETING APRIL 21 MIGHT TAKE UP THIS
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6. SEPARATE REPORTING CABLE ON SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION
THIS ISSUE WITH EGYPT FOLLOWS.DALE

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